

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 1-8, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of consistently producing quality meat products by managing growth of a plurality of calves through a growth management program, the method comprising the steps of:

establishing standards for participation in the program, the standards including - a minimum birth weight, a minimum twelfth week weight, a minimum seventeenth week weight, and a minimum growth rate; culling out calves that fail to meet the standards; and implementing a growth protocol for the calves that meet the standards.

2. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim ~~[[13]]~~ 1, wherein the minimum birth weight is approximately eighty-five pounds.

3. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim ~~[[13]]~~ 1, wherein the minimum twelfth week weight is approximately two hundred pounds.

4. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim ~~[[13]]~~ 1, wherein the minimum seventeenth week weight is approximately three hundred pounds.

5. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim [[13]] 1, wherein the minimum growth rate is approximately two and one half pounds per day.

6. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim [[13]] 1, wherein the growth protocol includes requirements concerning types of feed given to the calves.

7. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim [[13]] 1, wherein the growth protocol includes requirements concerning vaccinations given to the calves.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of consistently producing quality meat products by managing growth of a plurality of calves through a growth management program, the method comprising the steps of:

establishing standards for participation in the program, including - a minimum birth weight of approximately eighty-five pounds, a minimum twelfth week weight of approximately two hundred pounds, a minimum seventeenth week weight of approximately three hundred pounds, and a minimum growth rate of approximately two and one half pounds per day;

culling out calves that fail to meet the standards; and

implementing a growth protocol for ~~the~~ calves that meet the standards, including - requirements concerning types of feed and vaccinations given to the calves that meet the standards.